



Media Contact: Anita Bennett or Carmen Carlisle
c/o Young Communications Group, Inc.
213.738.9240, ext. 202 or ext. 201; cell: 213.304.2463
abennett@youngcomms.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The California African American Museum History Council Presents A Discussion With Rita Walters, Los Angeles' First African American City Councilwoman

Los Angeles—May 5, 2009—The first African American female councilwoman for the City of Los Angeles will be a featured guest at Conversations@CAAM, a regular series of dialogues presented by the History Council of the California African American Museum (CAAM). Former Los Angeles City Council member Rita D. Walters, who represented the city's 9th District from 1991 to 2001, will speak at CAAM, at 1pm on Saturday, May 16. During Walters tenure on the city council, she chaired the Arts, Health and Humanities Committee. Leaving office because of term limits, Walters represented an area that includes most of downtown, Little Tokyo and South Central Los Angeles. Among the initiatives she instituted were establishing the 9th District Dash shuttle and a Community Redevelopment Agency Recovery area. She also led the fight against the heavy concentration of liquor stores in South Central. Prior to winning her seat on the city council, Walters served on the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board of Education (1979-1991) where she came to national attention for legislation mandating a "C" grade point average/no fail policy for students pursuing extracurricular activities that became a national model. She currently serves as a commissioner for the Los Angeles Public Library.

The interview, to be conducted by Trudy M. Hatter, will focus on Walters' journey to becoming a public official and her experiences during her tenure. Hatter, who served on the

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CAAM State board of directors from 2000 to 2007, also served as History Council chairperson from 2003 to 2006 and currently chairs the Council's membership committee.

The Conversations@CAAM program will take place in the CAAM Conference Center, beginning at 1 pm. Sponsored by the CAAM History Council every other month, Conversations@CAAM is a series that presents experiences, issues, and insights of individuals who impact the community and have compelling stories to tell. The event is open to the public and free of charge. This interview is part of an oral history project conducted by CAAM and the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA in association with the UCLA Center for Oral History Research and funded with a grant from the UCLA Center for Community Partners. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 213.744.7432. The museum is located in Exposition Park at 600 State Drive. Parking in the adjacent lot at 39th and Figueroa Sts. is \$8.00 all day.

CAAM researches, collects, preserves and interprets for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans. Chartered by the California State Legislature in 1977, CAAM is a state supported institution and a partner with the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum. In addition to its permanent collection, CAAM hosts specially mounted exhibitions curated through loans and its own collection, and tours CAAM exhibitions throughout California and the nation. The museum is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sundays 11am-5pm. Admission is always free.

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